

# Danish Home Guard perfin used by “people’s army” throughout Denmark

A recent letter from Danish member Thomas Moerkeberg was mailed with a block of four of the H perfin of the Danish Hjemmeværnet—or Home Guard. The Home Guard is a civilian reserve military force that can be called to active duty in times of emergencies.

Moerkeberg says the Home Guard has about 50,000 members and that stamps with the H perfin are provided to some of these members for use on correspondence pertaining to Guard business. It is not uncommon for the perfins to sometimes be used on private correspondence or to wind up in the hands of collectors.

There are four different H patterns used by the Home Guard. The one shown on the block of four here is Type 1 which Moerkeberg says was first used in 1956 and is still being used. Another type was put into use in 1961, a third in 1983, and a fourth in 1999.

There is nothing scarce about any of the H perfins, says Moerkeberg. The four patterns exist on numerous perforators (there are 17 known perforators with the Type 1 pattern) and many of the perforators have five and ten dies.

Moerkeberg suggests that as many as 200,000 H perfins are put into circulation every year and that in the 1950s and 1960s, the number have been in the millions.

While the latest of the patterns (the one put into use in 1999) was intended for use only in the Ringsted area, all four of the perfins can exist with postmarks from anywhere in Denmark—from major cities to the smallest village. If the Home Guard is the “people’s army” then the H perfin is truly the “people’s perfin.”

